IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~31, characterized in that it comprises a first series of~~ 44, wherein:

said pressurized ~~water~~ nozzles include a first and a second series of pressurized nozzles, said ~~the jets produced by the nozzles of the~~ first series ~~and the nozzle jets produced by the~~ second series of pressurized nozzles producing jets of fluid having trajectories which intersect in a zone where ~~said~~ the waste falls, said jets being arranged to cut the waste as the waste falls through said zone.

3 - 7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~31, characterized in that said container has an elongated longitudinal extension, the~~ 44, wherein:

said inlet opening ~~extending~~ extends in ~~the~~ longitudinal direction of ~~extension of~~ said container.

9 - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~31, characterized in that it~~

~~comprises~~ 44, further comprising:

a recirculation duct between said ~~first~~ suction pump and ~~the~~ said container, ~~by means of which~~ said recirculation duct guiding a part of the flow sucked in by said ~~first~~ suction pump to said inlet duct ~~is recirculated inside said container~~.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein:

said inlet ~~outlet of said recirculation~~ duct is arranged higher than said suction duct ~~and the intake opening of said first pump are arranged approximately~~ at the ends of the elongated longitudinal extension of said container.

14. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~12, characterized in that the~~ 11, wherein:

said bottom wall of said container is inclined downwardly ~~and~~ from ~~the outlet of~~ said ~~recirculation~~ inlet duct toward ~~the intake opening of~~ said suction duct ~~first pump~~.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~31, wherein:~~ 44, further

comprising:

an inclined surface extending between said first end wall and said second end wall ~~for guiding the jet of water is associated with said water nozzle~~;

said suction duct ~~has~~ having suction openings arranged underneath said inclined surface.

17. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~31, characterized in that~~ 44, wherein:

said suction duct is connected to a separator for separating air from solid and/or liquid particles entrained in the air flow.

18. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim ~~31, characterized in that it comprises~~ 44, further comprising:

a thickening station to which at least partly ~~the~~ a mixture of water and waste ~~paper material~~ sucked by said ~~first~~ suction pump is conveyed and inside which the solid content of the mixture is increased, eliminating therefrom a part of the water content.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 18, characterized in that the mixture leaving said thickening station is conveyed to another container for subsequent

conveying to a headbox associated with ~~the~~ a paper production line and ~~the~~ water separated from said mixture is recycled.

21 - 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim ~~31~~ 44, wherein:

said ~~first~~ suction pump is a chopper pump, said chopper pump both pulverizes the waste ~~paper material~~ in the water, and pumps the water and waste ~~paper material~~ simultaneously.

29 - 35 (Cancelled)

36. (New) A pulper device for waste paper material, the device including:

- a longitudinally extending container for collecting waste, having first and second horizontally spaced apart end walls and a bottom wall, said container further having an upwardly oriented inlet opening for the waste, said inlet opening extending between said first and second end walls;

- at least a first set of pressurized water nozzles which produce a first set of water jets arranged to intercept the waste entering said container through said opening, said first set of pressurized water nozzles being arranged in a spaced apart relationship along a longitudinal extension of said container and arranged between said first and second end walls;

- a water suction duct for connecting said container to a suction pump, which removes the water and the waste from said container, said suction duct being arranged at said first end wall of said container;

- a water inlet duct feeding water into said container and arranged at said second end wall of said container, said water inlet duct, said water suction duct and said pump generating a water flow along said bottom wall of said longitudinally extending container, the water flowing along said longitudinal extension of said container, the waste being collected in the water flow and being sucked by said pump along with the water.

37. (New) A device according to claim 36, wherein said pump is a chopper pump.

38. (New) A device according to claim 36, wherein said container is connected to an air suction duct, having a duct inlet placed at a higher position than said water inlet duct and said water suction duct.

39. (New) A device according to claim 38, wherein said container includes an inclined surface extending between said first end wall and said second end wall, said water nozzles being arranged above said inclined surface and said duct inlet of said air suction duct being arranged underneath said inclined surface.

40. (New) A device according to claim 39, wherein a separating baffle is provided

underneath said inclined surface, said separating baffle and said inclined surface delimiting a closed volume, said inlet of said air suction duct being arranged in said closed volume, openings being provided for fluid connection between said container and said closed volume.

41. (New) A device according to claim 36, wherein said bottom wall of said container is inclined downwards from said water inlet duct towards said water suction duct.

42. (New) A pulper device for waste paper material, said device including:

- a longitudinally extending container for collecting waste, having first and second horizontally spaced end walls and a bottom wall, said container further having an upwardly oriented inlet opening for the waste, said inlet opening extending longitudinally between said first and second end walls;

- at least a first set of pressurized water nozzles which produce a first set of water jets oriented to intercept the waste entering said container through said opening, said first set of pressurized water nozzles being arranged in a spaced apart relationship along a longitudinal extension of said container and arranged between said first and second end walls;

- a suction pump for removing water and waste from said container, said suction pump being connected to said container by means of a water suction duct arranged at one of said first and second end walls of said container, said suction duct and said first pump generating a water and waste flow along said bottom wall of said longitudinally extending container towards said end wall at which said suction duct is arranged;

- an air suction duct having a suction-duct inlet in communication with said container, said suction-duct inlet being separated from said pressurized water nozzles by a separating wall extending longitudinally along said inlet opening of said container, said nozzles being arranged above said separating wall and said suction-duct inlet being arranged underneath said separating wall.

43. (New) A device according to claim 42, including a water inlet duct, for feeding water inside said container, arranged at the other of said first and second end walls of said container, said water inlet duct feeding water into said container, the water flowing along said bottom wall of said container towards said suction duct.

44. (New) A pulper device receiving waste, the device comprising:

a longitudinally extending container with first and second horizontally spaced apart end walls and a bottom wall, said container defining an upwardly oriented inlet opening for receiving the waste, said inlet opening extending between said first and second end walls;

a plurality of pressurized nozzles which each produce a jet arranged to intercept the waste entering said container through said opening, said pressurized nozzles being arranged in a spaced apart relationship along a longitudinal extension of said container and between said first and second end walls;

a suction duct arranged at said first end wall of said container;

an inlet duct arranged said second end wall of said container;

a suction pump connected to one of said suction duct and said inlet duct, said suction pump flowing a fluid along said bottom wall of said container from said inlet duct to said suction duct.

45. (New) A device in accordance with claim 44, wherein:

said suction pump flows the fluid along a longitudinal extension of said container,

said inlet duct, said suction duct and said suction pump being arranged to have a flow of the fluid along said bottom wall collect and transport the waste to said suction duct.

46. (New) A device in accordance with claim 44, further comprising:

an inclined surface extending between said first end wall and said second end wall, said inclined surface separating a first and second area of said container, said nozzles being arranged in said first area;

an air suction device for removing air from said container, said air suction device including an air suction duct arranged in said second area of said container.

47. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46, further comprising:

a separating baffle arranged in said second area of said container, said separating baffle and said inclined surface delimiting an enclosed volume, said air suction duct being arranged in said enclosed volume, said separating baffle defining openings for fluid connection between said container and said enclosed volume.